

Press Release

Patuxent Research Refuge

National Wildlife Visitor Center

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Rockville Student wins Wildlife Art Contest

Ashley Roller, a 16 year old junior at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, was just announced Maryland's "Best of Show" winner in the Maryland Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition. Ashley's excellent colored pencil drawing of an emperor goose among cattails was selected from the more than 420 entries submitted in this year's Statewide contest.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is an art and conservation program geared toward teaching children about the importance of wetlands and waterfowl conservation. The contest is open to all Maryland students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

"Ashley's entry, entitled 'Emperor's Domain,' will go on to compete with other state winners for the National Grand Prize," said Susan Minter, State Coordinator of the program. "The national winning design is used to print the official collectible Federal Junior Duck Stamp."

The judges selected 100 entries for awards: First Place, Second Place, Third Place, and Honorable Mentions were selected from four age groups. The annual awards ceremony for Maryland's winning students, their teachers, and families will be held on May 21, 2006 at the National Wildlife Visitor Center, Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel. Award certificates, ribbons, and other prizes will be presented to the winning students. All students who entered receive a Certificate of Participation.

After the awards ceremony, the First, Second, and Third Place entries will go on a tour throughout the State to be displayed at art and wildlife facilities such as the Ward Museum of Waterfowl Art in Salisbury, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, and the Easton Waterfowl Festival. During the year, the winners are seen by approximately 40,000 people throughout the State.

This year's judges were: Robert Bevard, wildlife artist; Mike Haramis, Research Biologist with USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; Chip Heaps, Senior Regional Director, Ducks Unlimited; Debra Trent, wildlife artist; and Robert L. Williams, Jr, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Winning entries will be on display at the Patuxent Research Refuge's National Wildlife Visitor Center during the month of May. The Visitor Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore/Washington Parkway and MD Route 197 south of Laurel. For more information about the Refuge or Visitor Center, visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov> or call 301-497-5760.

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